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RELEASE: Upon Receipt

News Notes No. 17

31 March 1945

ARMY X-RAY CONFERENCE

A three-day X-Ray Conference was held March 27, 28 and 29 at the Medical Department Equipment Laboratory, Carlisle, Pa., attended by representatives of the Army Service Forces, Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces and U.S. Navy, together with representatives of industrial companies manufacturing X-Ray equipment. Improvements in present X-Ray equipment and requirements for future development were discussed.

Attending from The Surgeon General's Office were Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Klopp, MC, Chief of the Development Branch of the Technical Division who presided the first day, and Lieutenant Colonel Howard B. Nelson, PC, Chief of the Supply Coordination Branch, Captain Charles R. Tittle, MC, Captain Howard A. B. Bliss, SnC, all of the Technical Division; and Lieutenant Colonel Charles G. Gruber, SnC, Chief of the Maintenance Branch, and Captain Marvin B. Hedlin, MAC, both of the Supply Service.

The Conference ended with a demonstration of captured German X-Ray equipment.

General Bayne-Jones Emphasizes
Importance of Research on National Scale

"Experience of the past and vision of the future clearly show the need for organization, coordination and support of medical research, as of all scientific research, on a national scale," said Brigadier General Stanhope Bayne-Jones, USA, Deputy Chief of the Preventive Medicine Service, Office of The Surgeon General, in a recent address at the semi-centennial celebration of the Yale Chapter of Sigma Xi at New Haven, Conn.

Citing control of the typhus fever epidemic at Naples through the use of DDT, General Bayne-Jones stated that "the synthesis of a half a dozen sciences is in a single puff of DDT powder."

He said that planning is now being made for post-war research but, "when the compelling necessities of the war end and the urge of patriotism diminishes, there probably will not be the same degree of motivation toward group work for the solution of scientific problems."

He added that funds and laboratories may be made available but stressed the need to arouse or keep at high pitch in post-war years the present spirit of collaboration and intense application.

GENERAL ROGERS HONORED BY TWO ALLIES

Brigadier General John A. Rogers, USA, Surgeon of the First Army, has been awarded the medal of Officer, Order of the British Empire, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm in recognition of his contribution to the Allied victories on the western front.

193,000 PINTS OF BLOOD FLOWN TO WOUNDED

Combined figures on East and West coast flights of whole blood to the war theaters reached 193,000 pints this month according to the Office of The Surgeon General. Since the start of the blood-flying program over the Atlantic last August, 150,000 pints of whole blood have been flown from the East Coast to the European Theater. This service has made it possible for a wounded man to get blood within 24 hours after it was drawn from a donor here. Shipments now average about 1,200 pints a day--which provides transfusions for three to four hundred average cases.

Whole blood shipments being flown from the West Coast to the Pacific Ocean Area have totaled 43,000 pints since the inauguration of the service last November.

Continued donations of type "O" whole blood are necessary to maintain this life-saving service.

"FAITH AND GUTS"

From the 100th Division in France has come a story of the "faith and guts" of two medical officers and an aid man. Twice one night the aidman, Pfc. Julius Shocko, of Charlevoix, Mich., had attempted to reach a casualty, but German machine gun fire raked the intervening terrain. Later Shocko was joined by Captain James F. X. O'Rourke, MC, of New York City, Battalion Surgeon, and 1st Lieutenant Leonard E. Coplen, MAC, of Newton, Mass. The three boldly walked out in the daylight and covered 300 yards under German observation while the men in foxholes held their breath. At the edge of some woods they were stopped by a German gunner. "We are from the Medical Corps and we have come for the wounded man," they told him. After a short wait several Germans appeared carrying the body of the man they had sought to rescue. "You have great courage," said one of the Germans as the medical men started back with their burden.

How "Medical Intelligence" Protects Army's Health

History has shown that most of the diseases which tend to occur in massive outbreaks in time of war are infectious diseases, and many of them follow certain geographical patterns of distribution. To prevent such outbreaks among our armies by forewarning them of the local conditions they will meet is the work of "medical intelligence."

Major Saul Jarcho, MC, Chief of the Analysis Branch of the Medical Intelligence Division, Preventive Medicine Service, Office of The Surgeon General, speaking at Mt. Sinai Hospital, N.Y., cited the following example of the need for precise information concerning each individual area: "An island may be bisected by a tall range of mountains which intercepts the prevailing winds and the moisture conveyed by the winds. If this occurs, one side of the island will be windy and rainy while the other may be dry and waterless. The result may be a complete difference in the occurrence of disease."

He then went on to explain that the latest accurate information available is supplied our armed forces by means of surveys conducted by Medical Intelligence Officers. This information, he said, includes a brief description of climatic and geographical factors and detailed accounts of the public health organization, and medical facilities; also environmental factors such as water supply, the disposal of wastes, flora, fauna and food supplies; and information regarding diseases of military importance, potential military importance and those which affect the native population generally. Specific recommendations for the prevention and control of disease in the area are also included.

Colonel Briscoe on Ad Hoc Committee

Lieutenant Colonel William S. Briscoe, AUS, Chief of the Educational Reconditioning Branch, Reconditioning Consultants Division, has been appointed to represent Major General Norman T. Kirk, The Surgeon General, on the Ad Hoc Committee recently formed to coordinate and effectuate personal services for military personnel.

CIVILIAN COMMITTEE TO AID ARMY'S PROGRAM FOR THE BLIND

An Honorary Civilian Advisory Committee to The Surgeon General has been formed to cooperate in the Army's social adjustment training program for the blind. All members of the committee are individually prominent in civilian work for the blind.

At the first meeting held this month (March 21) at the American Foundation for the Blind in New York City, Dr. Robert B. Irwin of New York City was elected Chairman, and Mr. Joseph G. Cauffman, of Overbrook, Pa., Secretary. Mr. Peter J. Salmon, of Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. W. L. McDaniel, of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Henry P. Johnson of Tampa, Fla., were elected Field Consultants. These constitute the Executive Committee.

Other members of the Advisory Committee include Dr. Gabriel Farrell, of Watertown, Mass., Mr. Eber L. Palmer of Batavia, N.Y., Colonel E. A. Baker, of Toronto, Can., Mr. Philip N. Harrison, of Harrisburg, Pa., Dr. Roma S. Check, of Raleigh, N.C., Rev. Thomas J. Carroll of Newton, Mass., and Mrs. Lee Johnson of Jefferson City, Mo.

RECENT PROMOTIONS, MEDICAL CORPS OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel

LAWRENCE CARTER BALL, MC, Harlan, Ky.
ALBERT ALEXANDER CORP, MC, Philadelphia, Pa.
JOHN VERON ELLSON, JR., MC, Upper Darby, Pa.
ALBERT FIELDS, DC, Jamestown, N.Y.
REX CLAYTON HOUSE, MC, Idabel, Okla.
HAROLD LENTON JANUARY, MC, Albuquerque, New Mexico
RICHARD HERBERT JONES, MC, Ripon, Wisc.
HYMAN RICHARD OSHEROFF, MC, Omaha, Neb.
HORATIO ROGERS, MC, Newton Centre, Mass.
DONALD YOUNG SHAFFER, MC, New Brighton, Pa.
JOHN EDWARD THOMPSON, MC, Youngsville, Pa.

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

EMERY E. ALLING, MC, Oklahoma City, Okla.
A. V. ANDREWS, MC, Livingston, Calif.
ESTES McMATH BLACKBURN, DC, Jackson, Miss.
JOHN ALFRED BURDEN, MC, Baldwin Parkers, T.H.
HAROLD NORBERT CAVANAUGH, MC, Reading, Ohio
WILLIAM EDWARD BARFIELD, MC, Jackson, Ga.
JOSEPH COBB ELLINGTON, MC, Alto, La.
GERALD JONAS FRIEDMAN, MC, New York, N.Y.
RICHARD EDWARD HABER, MC, Pittsburgh, Pa.
THOMAS HALE HAM, MC, Brookline, Mass.
HORACE CARL HAMLIN, MAC, Lancaster, Ohio
BERNARD DANIEL HARRINGTON, MC, Takoma, Wash.
EDWIN VALENTINE HILL, MC, Lexington, Mass.
RALPH WALDO HUBBARD, MC, Oklahoma City, Okla.
SAMUEL W. JOEL, MC, Washington, D.C.
JUDD HARRIS KIRKHAM, MC, Wichita, Kansas
JOE HOLLIS LITTLE, MC, Mobile, Ala.
WILLIAM EDWARD LOOBY, MC, Highland Park, Ill.
EDWARD CLYDE LUTTON, MC, Butler, Pa.
PAUL FRANKLIN MAX, MC, St. Louis, Mo.
FRANK HENDERSON MAYFIELD, MC, Cincinnati, Ohio
HENRY NATHAN MILLER, MC, Reading, Pa.
DONALD ALLAN ROBERT MORRISON, MC, Oconomowoc, Wisc.
GEORGE LOUIS PELKEY, MC, Chicago, Ill.
EMIL PATRICK REED, MC, Brownsville, Tex.
AUGUSTA LEE SHORT, ANC, Mitchellville, Md.
BENNETTE EDWARD STEPHENSON, MC, Roanoke Rapids, N.C.
MAIDIE ELIZABETH TILLEY, ANC, Fairfield, Me.
RALPH WIGHTMAN TRENT, DC, Washington, D.C.
WILLIAM CHARLES VERNOCY, MC, Corapolis, Pa.
HOWARD JOSEPH WEINBERGER, MC, San Francisco, Calif.
DANIEL ALBERT WILCOX, MC, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.
HAROLD ALEXIS WILSON, DC, Windom, Minn.
BARNES WOODHALL, MC, Durham, N.C.
GEORGE ZALKAN, MC, Denver, Colo.
THOMAS CUTTING ZULICH, JR., MC, Easton, Pa.

RECENT PROMOTIONS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

Major to Lieutenant Colonel

WILLIAM S. BRISCOE, AUS, of Oakland, Calif., Reconditioning Consultants Division.
EDNA B. GROPE, ANC, of Chicago, Ill., Military Personnel Division, Personnel Service.
ALEXANDER F. LIPTON, MAC, of Brooklyn, N.Y., Technical Division, Operations Service.
HARRY M. LUTGENS, MAC, of San Rafael, Calif., Director, Technical Information Division.

Captain to Major

MARVIN R. CORLETTE, MC, of Pasadena, Calif., Nutrition Division, Preventive Medicine Service.
GERTRUDE ROBERTS, ANC, of LaJunta, Colo., Personnel Service, Military Personnel Division.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEON H. WARREN, MC, as Liaison officer to National Research Council, Editorial Board of War Medicine.

MAJOR ALFRED O. GLASSON, MAC, as Chief, Liaison Branch, Purchases Division, Supply Service.

MAJOR JAMES J. SOUDER, SnC, as Chief, Hospital Construction Branch, Hospital Division, Operations Service.

ASSIGNED TO OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

MAJOR ALFRED O. GLASSON, MAC, of Brookside, New Jersey, formerly of Army Medical Purchasing Office, N.Y., assigned to Purchases Division, Supply Service.

CAPTAIN GUNNAR H. HAGE, MAC, of Franklin, Tenn., formerly of Camp Barkeley, Texas, assigned to Training Division, Operations Service.

RECENT DEPARTURES, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RALPH R. PATCH, SnC, of Stoneham, Mass., formerly Purchase Division, Supply Service, relieved from active duty.

MAXILLO-FACIAL INJURIES

A survey of the North African and Sicilian campaigns showed that of the total admissions to hospitals 0.5 per cent were for maxillo-facial injuries. Of these, forty-two per cent were battle casualties.

The incidence of maxillo-facial injuries compared to total battle casualties was about twenty-two per cent. In the cases reported, there were no deaths caused primarily by battle-incurred maxillo-facial injury.

General Foster Honored by City

Brigadier General George B. Foster, Jr., USA, Commanding Officer of O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo., was chosen Springfield's "outstanding citizen and man of the year" and awarded an engraved bronze plaque by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce for his activities in coordinating the welfare of the hospital with that of the community, giving an "unusual measure of devotion to the advancement of Springfield and the Ozarks."

In paying tribute to General Foster at the award dinner, Major General C. H. Danielson, Commanding Officer of the Seventh Service Command said he had distinguished himself "as an administrator, as a medical man and as a leader... who has become a part of this community...and a compelling force."

MEDICAL CLEARING COMPANY RECEIVES AWARD

The Clearing Company of the 120th Medical Battalion of the 45th (Thunderhead) Division has been awarded the meritorious service unit plaque in recognition of the brilliant work it performed on the Anzio beachhead in Italy under adverse weather conditions, enemy artillery fire and frequent air attacks.

"Home-Like Atmosphere"

Despite the size of Army general hospitals which must care for vast numbers of sick and wounded, it is still possible to avoid an institutional atmosphere. Here is first hand testimony from a soldier, wounded at Guadalcanal in 1942, who writes:

"Now that I am going to be a civilian, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the personnel of Bushnell General Hospital who made possible my recovery... I like Bushnell as it has more of a home-like atmosphere."

COLONEL MENNINGER ADDRESSES FORUM

Colonel William C. Menninger, MC, Chief Consultant in Psychiatry to The Surgeon General, was the featured speaker at the "Mental Health in Wartime" forum, the first of a series to be held by the Washington (D.C.) Metropolitan Health Council. He stressed the fact that the neuropsychiatric service in the Army provides not only treatment opportunities but preventive measures. He expressed the hope that popular understanding of psychiatry would "eventually dispel the clouds of mystery and the irrational stigmatization of those afflicted with emotional illness, and bring about a public demand for the application of psychiatric principles to our legal, our educational, our political and our medical practices."

Colonel Beeuwkes Retires

Colonel Henry Beeuwkes, MC, Commanding Officer of Valley Forge General Hospital since its inception two and a half years ago, has been retired from active duty.

He was graduated from the Johns Hopkins University in 1909 and entered the Army the same year. Colonel Beeuwkes was personal aide and physician to General Pershing during the last war. At the close of the war he was sent to Armenia as a member of the Harbord Medical Mission. He later served as Medical Director of the American Relief Administration in Russia under Herbert Hoover.

Colonel Beeuwkes resigned from the Army in 1924 to study yellow fever in Brazil. In 1925 he went to Africa to study yellow fever there. Colonel Beeuwkes was Director of the West African Yellow Fever Commission from 1925 to 1934. He holds the Distinguished Service Medal, Officer of the French Legion of Honor, Grande Medaille Epidemie, and the Mary Kingsley Medal from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Colonel William E. Vaughan, MC, formerly Commanding Officer, Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S.C., has been appointed by The Surgeon General's Office to succeed Colonel Beeuwkes.

GLIDERS CARRY WOUNDED TO HOSPITALS

A glider service was inaugurated in the European Theater this month to evacuate our wounded from Remagen. Observers reported that the shock incident to being "snatched" into the air was absorbed by an improved towing device. It is now possible that gliders may almost eliminate ambulances for hauling our battle casualties long distances over shell torn roads -- giving them a faster, smoother ride to the hospital.

The gliders serve a dual purpose. Coming in to the battle area they can carry twelve litter patients or nineteen walking wounded.

Ambulance gliders were first used experimentally by the British in Burma and New Guinea.

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E R R A T A

MAXILLO-FACIAL INJURIES

Instead of, "The incidence of maxillo-facial injuries compared to total battle casualties was about twenty-two per cent," this should read, "The incidence of maxillo-facial injuries compared to total battle casualties was about 2.2 per cent."

NEW ASSIGNMENTS, OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

Do not use "LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEON H. WARREN, MC, as Liaison officer to National Research Council, Editorial Board of War Medicine" due to change of assignment.